

# Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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## Meeting Minutes January 23, 2012

### Attendance:

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Associate Members Present:
Helene Dubay	Susan Austin	
Reverend Ellison	Amy Axel	
Kathy Halliday	Niki Biggs	
Laurie Kwiedorowicz	Bob Coen	
Mike Mathias	Keith England	
Ben Mayforth	Councilman Guthrie	
Tracy Moore	Steve Sopel	
Marc Weinstein		
Andrea Wiley		

- I. Chairperson Marc Weinstein called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
- II. Presentation: Karen Winkowski, Administrator of the Harford County Office on Aging, discussed Maryland Access Point (MAP), an initiative of the Administration on Aging and Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. MAP's goals are to promote the integration of long-term care information and referral services, to provide benefits and options counseling services, and to streamline access to public and private financial benefits for those in need of long-term supports. Local MAP partners include: the Health Department, the Department of Social Services, the Office on Mental Health, and The IMAGE Center. Implementation is planned for July 2012.
- III. Minutes: The minutes of the November 28, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.
- IV. Committee Reports:
  - A. Membership: The Commission approved a Membership Committee recommendation to reappoint Michael Mathias and Helene Dubay. The recommendation will be forwarded to the County Executive for approval.
  - B. Accessibility:

1. Fair Housing Services: The Department of Community Services' Fair Housing Services contract has been awarded. Final contract has not yet been signed.
  2. Accessible County Facilities: No new information.
  3. Request for Waiver of the MD Accessibility Code: Tracy Moore reported that she, Bob Coen, and Sharon Grzanka met with Rich Truitt, Deputy Director of the Harford County Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, and Tim Kick, Facilities Manager, Mountain Christian Church. The purpose of the meeting was to review the church's request for waiver of the MD Accessibility Code on a project to construct an outdoor education center on the campus. A permit had been denied because there was an issue with an accessible route to the education center. After discussion, it was agreed that Mountain Christian would re-submit their plans with the addition of an accessible parking space located near the education center off of a gravel road and an accessible route from the parking space to and through the proposed education center. This plan would guarantee accessibility and eliminate the need for a waiver.
  4. Ramps Program: Information about upcoming projects will be provided as it is available.
  5. Operation Access: At the November Commission meeting, Sgt. Wilkinson presented a report on the Harford County Sheriff's Office/Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) joint "Disabled Persons Parking Compliance" effort on November 4, 2011. Again, congratulations to the Sheriff's Office on another successful detail!
- C. Education Committee: Helene Dubay reported that:
1. The Expo for Transitioning Youth will be held on **Saturday, March 10, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., at the Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe Street, Bel Air.**
  2. The planning committee is finalizing workshop topics to include: Social Security and other benefits; Division of Rehabilitation Services and Workforce Technology Center; Maryland Workforce Exchange; Self-Advocacy; Estate Planning; High-demand Occupation Training (HOT) programs at Harford Community College, etc.
  3. The next meeting of the Expo Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

- D. Government and Community Relations Committee:
1. Web page: In Bob Coen's absence, Sharon announced that the "Legislative Guide" to the Maryland General Assembly Session is available on the Commission web page. The "Spotlight on Services" is featuring Disability Support Services at Harford Community College.
  2. Legislative Committee: Laurie Kwiedorowicz presented a summary of disability-related legislation before the Maryland General Assembly, which is attached.
  3. Voice of the Disability Community:
    - Maryland Alliance of Local Commissions and Committees on Disabilities: The next meeting will be held on February 6, 2012 in Howard County. Commissioners interested in attending should contact Sharon.
    - Maryland Youth Leadership Forum: Independence Now has announced that the Youth Leadership Forum will be held June 26 - 29, 2012. The application is available at <http://www.innow.org/home/youth-leadership-forum/apply>.
    - Jurisdictional Planning Group: No new information.
- E. Employment Committee: The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the Aberdeen Workforce Center.
- F. Transportation Committee:
1. Sharon distributed a press release on Harford Transit LINK's new Route 7/Teal Route which travels from Harford County across the Hatem Bridge to Perryville in Cecil County. The press release on this new service is at <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/Press.cfm?PressID=3395>
  2. The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 10, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School". Harford County Ride Share Coordinator Alan Doran will discuss transportation opportunities available through the Ride Share program
- IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: No new information.
- V. Old Business: There was none.
- VI. New Business:
- A. Presentation at February 27, 2012 meeting: Harford County's upcoming 5-Year Consolidated Plan for Community Development.

VII. Public Comment and Announcements: There were none.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

This document is available in alternative format upon request:  
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2012 Legislative Review  
As of 23 Jan 12

HB 9: Education-Children and Youth- Reporting Information Concerning Student Health, Well-Being and Growth. Proposes a change to the school services and instruction in health education to include diabetes, treating and controlling diabetes, and other age appropriate issues.

HB 15: Maryland Medical Marijuana Act. Proposes the authorization of medical use of marijuana under certain circumstances; establishes a program plan, and repeals the imposition of fines and criminal punishment.

HB 29: Minority Business Enterprises-Not-for-Profit Entities and Termination Extension. Proposes that non-profit entities that promote the interests of individuals with physical and mental disabilities be included in the definition of a minority business enterprise if the annual operating budget does not exceed 1.5 million dollars and the majority of the individuals on the Board of Directors or other governing body are socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

HB 17: Crimes-Elder Abuse of Neglect-Increased Penalties and Restrictions on Pretrial Release (John H. Taylor Act). Proposes to alter the penalties for the crime of causing abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult in the first or second degree. For first degree crimes, the proposed maximum penalty increase is from 10 to 20 years, and the fine is increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000. For second degree crimes, the proposed maximum penalty increase is from 5 to 10 years, and the fine is increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Note this proposal was unsuccessfully introduced last year.

HB 53: Higher Education- Community Colleges- Tuition Waiver for Disabled Individuals. Proposes to change the requirement for obtaining an exemption from tuition payments at community colleges for students with disabilities enrolled in courses for continuing education designed to lead to employment, including life skills instruction. Requires proof of a disability approved by the SSA, OPM, or the RRB. The exemption would be applied for 6 to 12 credits.

SB 6: Property Tax Exemption for Blind Individuals and Surviving Spouses. Proposes an increase in the property tax exemption from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for dwelling homes owned by specified blind individuals or surviving spouses.

SB 18: Task Force on Military Service Members, Veterans, and the Courts. Proposes the creation and staffing of a task force to study military service related mental health issues and substance abuse issues, and make recommendations

before December 2013. Also proposes the creation of a special court for defendants who are military members or veterans.

SB 58: Education- Children in Informal Kinship Care Relationships- Payments for Students with Disabilities—Funding. Proposes to change the definitions for funding educational opportunities for students with disabilities in a living relationship with a relative providing for the child due to a serious family hardship, and not in the care, custody or guardianship of the local department of social services. Funding is proposed to cover educational environments deemed to be a “least restrictive environment” and receives special education in regular education settings (for less than 40% of the day) and in separate public day facilities that does not include programs for students without disabilities (for greater than 50% of the day).

SB 97: Maryland Medical Assistance Program-Eligibility Determinations. Proposes the creation of appeal rights when the Department fails to act within reasonable promptness, and adds due process rights for disability determination hearings.

SB 107/ HB 8: Criminal Law-Electronic Harassment; Penalties. Proposes the prohibition of electronic communication with the intent to terrify or harass another person. The proposed law excludes peaceful political speech. A violation is proposed to be a misdemeanor subject to imprisonment of not more than 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5000, or both.

SB 121: Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program-Sunset Extension. Proposes to extend the termination date of the program until 2014.

